**Amendment to the Claims**

Claims 1 - 19 (Cancelled)

20. (Currently amended): A recombinant yeast capable of utilizing 2-keto-L-gulonic acid (KLG) ~~KLG~~ as a sole carbon source to produce ascorbic acid or an ascorbic acid stereoisomer, said yeast comprising either one or both of

a) a heterologous nucleic acid encoding an oxidative enzyme associated with the production of ascorbic acid or an ascorbic acid stereoisomer in said yeast and

b) a heterologous nucleic acid encoding a reducing enzyme associated with the production of ascorbic acid or an ascorbic acid stereoisomer in said yeast.

21. (Currently amended): The yeast of Claim 20 wherein said oxidative enzyme ~~is a~~ has dehydrogenase activity.

22. (Currently amended): The yeast of Claim 21 wherein said ~~dehydrogenase~~ oxidative enzyme having dehydrogenase activity is selected from the group consisting of a glucose dehydrogenase ~~activity~~, a gluconic acid dehydrogenase ~~activity~~, a 2-keto-D-gluconic acid dehydrogenase ~~activity~~, a galactose dehydrogenase ~~activity~~, ~~an~~ a L-sorbose ~~activity~~, a D-sorbitol dehydrogenase ~~activity~~, a L-sorbosone dehydrogenase ~~activity~~, a L-idonic acid oxidase and a L-gulonic acid oxidase.

23. (Currently amended): The yeast of Claim 20 wherein said reducing enzyme ~~is a~~ has reductase activity.

24. (Currently amended): The yeast of Claim 23 wherein said reducing enzyme having reductase activity is selected from the group consisting of a ~~2,5-DKG reductase activity, 2,5-DKG reducatse activity, 2,3 DKG reductase~~ 2,5 -diketo-L-gluconic acid (2,5-DKG) reductase, a 2,3-L-diketogulonic acid (2,3-DKG) reductase, a 5-keto reductase, a 2-keto reductase and a 2-ketogulonate reductase.

25. (Original): The yeast of Claim 20 wherein the yeast is a member of the Imperfect yeast group.

26. (Currently amended): The yeast of Claim 25 wherein the yeast is a member of the family ~~Cryptococcaceae~~ *Cryptococcaceae*.

27. (Currently amended): The yeast of Claim 26 wherein the yeast ~~includes Candida and Cryptococcus~~ is a *Candida* or *Cryptococcus*.

28. (Currently amended): The yeast of Claim 27 wherein the yeast is ~~Candida blankii~~. *Candida blankii*

29. (Currently amended): The yeast of Claim 27 wherein the yeast is ~~Cryptococcus dimennae~~. *Cryptococcus dimennae*

Claims 30 – 40. (Canceled)

41. (New): A recombinant yeast capable of utilizing 2-keto-L-gulonic acid (KLG) as a carbon source to produce ascorbic acid or an ascorbic acid stereoisomer, said yeast comprising either one or both of

a) a heterologous nucleic acid encoding a glucose dehydrogenase and

b) a heterologous nucleic acid encoding a 2,5 -diketo-L-gluconic acid (2,5-DKG) reductase

wherein said yeast is *Candida blankii* or *Cryptococcus dimennae* and is capable of converting glucose to KLG and then utilizing the KLG to produce ascorbic acid or an ascorbic acid stereoisomer.

42. (New): The recombinant yeast of Claim 41 wherein said yeast is *Candida blankii*.

43. (New): The recombinant yeast of Claim 41 wherein said yeast is *Cryptococcus dimennae*.

44. (New): A recombinant yeast capable of utilizing 2-keto-L-gulonic acid (KLG) as a carbon source to produce ascorbic acid or an ascorbic acid stereoisomer, said yeast comprising at least one heterologous nucleic acid encoding a L-sorbose dehydrogenase, a D-sorbitol dehydrogenase, a L-sorbosone dehydrogenase or a galactose dehydrogenase, wherein said

yeast is *Candida blankii* or *Cryptococcus dimennae* and is capable of converting sorbitol to KLG and then utilizing the KLG to produce ascorbic acid or an ascorbic acid stereoisomer.

45. (New): The recombinant yeast of Claim 44 wherein said yeast is *Candida blankii*.

46. (New): The recombinant yeast of Claim 44 wherein said yeast is *Cryptococcus dimennae*.